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Sen. Jason Allen urges development of Rare Isotope Accelerator at Michigan State University

Lansing – State Sen. Jason Allen, R-Traverse City, introduced two resolutions urging the United States Department of Energy to develop a Rare Isotope Accelerator at Michigan State University.

The \$1 billion RIA would be dedicated to producing and exploring isotopes that cannot be found in nature today. Not only is the RIA a next-generation facility for conducting basic nuclear science research, rare isotope research has advanced national security, medicine and detection technologies.

“Bringing this facility to Michigan would have a tremendous impact,” Allen said. “It would help advance research and science, and bring over \$1 billion to Michigan's economy in construction and research jobs.”

Research conducted at the RIA would be a natural extension of the activities currently conducted at the National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory at MSU. A highly regarded facility, the NSCL has demonstrated its value to the country with a proven record of accomplishments and cost effectiveness.

According to the 2001 edition of *U.S. News and World Report*, MSU's nuclear physics graduate program is one of the top programs in the nation, ranking second only to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

“The addition of the Accelerator would bring our nation's elite scientists to Michigan. These research jobs will spur additional investment in Michigan and lead to even more technical and research jobs for Michiganders, solidify us as the national leader in nuclear research,” Allen said.

(More)

Construction of the facility would take an estimated 10 years and have an annual operating budget of about \$80 million.

The 20-year economic impact is projected to total \$1.9 billion. It will generate \$930 million in construction, create 800 new construction jobs, create 400 new laboratory jobs, and add 8,300 visitor days to Michigan annually.

For more information on the RIA, visit www.nscl.msu.edu.

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